International Events for CSM: International Issues

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The Sri Lankan Imbroglio

11 July, 2022

The developments in the neighbourhood state of Sri Lanka are there for the history Books as a kind of revolution has occurred in the nation in the shady and discomfiting aftermath of the economic spiral and economic mismanagement by the dynastic rule of the Mahinda Rajpaksa Government of the day and now with the surrendered tendered resignation of Ranil Wickramsinghe, the cat is amongst the crowd and the complete lid of popular opprobrium has been blown off by the people and hoi polloi of the besieged and troubled Emerald Isle that Sri Lanka used to be not so many years back with its appreciable lead over the rest of its South Asian counterparts in the Indian subcontinent. The threat of an economic collapse has always been imminent in the contours of Colombo but the Government of the day replete with Dynastic rule and amidst the frenzy of collaboration with the Chinese deb trap diplomacy, the threat of an economic collapse were always there on the anvil for the nation state of Sri Lanka which had an otherwise efficiency and professionalism veneer attached to itself and its attendant workings.

A sort of a walkover populist revolution seems to have occurred in the Emerald isle of Sri Lanka as in the people and the protesters are most venerably peaceful lot one will be ever accosted by. The national daily, the Hindu reports that, "Calm returns to Colombo, people make their way to the presidential palace in 'regulated' long queues; Presidential Secretariat resembles a public park. Sunday was nothing like Saturday near Colombo's seafront. It was much less crowded, but still teeming with people. They were curiously surveying the Presidential Secretariat and official residence, a day after outraged demonstrators captured and occupied the iconic colonial-era structures, in a stunning finale to a season of protests in crisis-hit Sri Lanka."

As the national daily, the Hindu reports that, "In their smiling faces, a sense of accomplishment appeared to have displaced anger as they walked through the sites of unbridled executive power that have now become symbols of their resistance to it. "I was

here yesterday, too. The rally was historic. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience to see and be part of such a massive protest to dislodge our leaders," said Masha Munaweera, a 34-year-old banker. She was back at the site, along with her mother. "She too wanted to see this change," Ms. Munaweera said, cautiously adding: "I really hope they [President and PM] do resign. There is some concern they may try to hold on to power. Let's see." The economic meanderings and the collapse of the Sri Lankan economics has fuelled public angst as fuel, energy and essential commodities shortage have seen the political class falling cartwheeling in the recent past. Shortages of the order of medicines, LPG had led the Government to declare that due to the shortage of fuel supplies, the livelihood security of the citizens has been threatened. People wanted change after the destiny of their livelihood security and human security had collapsed under the mismanagement of the Mahinda's regime which brought the nation on to the border of economic profligacy.

International Events:

International Events: Daily Update: PKP: 24 June, 2022

WTO Ministerial Meeting: The Takeaways

As we are subsisting in the age and times of Global Regimes, the entire global comity of nations is adhering to a nom de plume of convergence and increasing interdependence where-in realms of the order of Climate Change, Human trafficking, drug trafficking along with proliferation of weapons of Mass Destruction, the plethora of strains of thought processes, public opinion and policy decisions are to be understood and comprehended astutely. In the contemporary context, myriad challenges present themselves to the global polity and geo economics as third world and alternate International Organizations such as BRICS tend to render asunder the mainstream Global Institutions and the attendant

economics of the larger international ecosystem. One can understand the economic phenomenon as the new confrontation between the core and the periphery.

- WTO reform: Members reinstated the fundamental tenets of the WTO and which is dedicated to an open and inclusive process to reform all its functions, ranging from deliberation to negotiation to the always on process of monitoring. A well-functioning dispute settlement system is also on the cards which can be utilised by all present day partakers by 2024. The appellate body has been dormant since 2020 as the United States refused to agree the appointment of new judges.
- Pandemic Management: The WTO Ministerial Conference decided that eligible
 countries could override COVID-19 vaccine patents until 2027. The decision on
 whether to extend this to COVID-19 therapeutics and diagnostics was delayed for
 six months. The footnote defining "eligible" was missing as we went to press, but it's
 understood this is agreed to include most developing countries except China.

Although the intellectual property issue was a focus for campaigners, the glut in supply of vaccines means that some of the softer declarations on future pandemics were at least as interesting. These included a recognition of the role of diversification of production and ensuring that emergency trade restrictions are proportionate, transparent and temporary. Members reiterated the importance of trade facilitation and the operation of cross-border services such as logistics, health services and IT in combating future pandemics. Noting the severe effect of border restrictions on tourism, countries encouraged dialogue to mitigate this.

An all pervading sentiment that business stipulations outweighed human health would be sincerely deleterious to the health and progression of global trade. Nations all across the length and breadth of Global polity need to facilitate trade helps, and appear to render help to the onerous health outcomes.

 E-commerce: Digital Commercial entities were taken aback that the conference might usher in a culmination of a global ban on tariffs on electronic transmissions, augmenting higher costs for traded digital products and services. As it seemed likely that this might lapse, side discussions turned to stealthy responses by some nations on those who might reach out to such a genre of tariffs. The proposed moratorium at the WTO Ministerial was reinitiated until at latest 31 March 2024. It was also stipulated that the General Council must engage in periodic reviews, premised upon the WTO reports on the "scope, definition, and impact" of the moratorium.

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The Ukraine War

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• The Russian President Vladimir Putin seems to be adhering to a "scorched Earth Policy" where to begin with, the capital city of Kyiv and Kharkiv along with Mauripol were bombarded and attacked by the Russian forces. The question and the avowed intent of Ukraine's President Zelenesky made the Moscow invade Ukraine and led to a debilitating and destructive invasion by a much more lethal and militarily potent Russia.

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Though President Zelensky was able to ward off the attacks on mainlkand Kyiv and Kharkiv but they have lost significant ground in the larger industrial Eastern base region of Donesk and Luhansk, parts of which are held and ruled the Russia backed rebels. The fall of the Azovastal steel plant along with the fall of the city of Donesk has been a situation where the Ukraine forces have had to withdraw from a few towns and villages which earmarks a partial victory of Putin in the five month old war. The Indian Express reports that, "Russia is pursuing a 'scorched-earth policy' in Ukraine, said Luhansk Governor Serhiy Gaidai. His comments come a day after a Russian missile hit a shopping mall in the Ukrainian city of Kremenchuk. Russia has denied hitting the mall, saying that it had struck a nearby depot of US and European arms triggerin an explosion which ignited a fire in the mall."

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• The national daily further reports that, "Governor Gaidai said that Luhansk region's Lysychansk has seen increased military action. "The situation in Lysychansk is very difficult," Luhansk Governor Serhiy Gaidai said on television.

"The Russians are using every weapon available to them ... and without distinguishing whether targets are military or not — schools, kindergartens, cultural institutions," he said. "Everything is being destroyed. This is a scorchedearth policy." Thus, collateral damage is the endgame of the invading and marauding Russian forces where-in innocent lives in residential areas of Ukraine along with the damage and destruction of municipal buildings, schools and hospitals have cast a dark light on the evil intent and cruel objectives of the Russian forces.

International Issues: 4 July, 2022

The Trials in Afghanistan

Afghanistan has been a perennial prey to the one uppance of the historic and colonial Great Game where-in the twin large powers of the order of Russia and the Colonial and oppressive British Empire were at loggerheads with each other in order to prevent each other from the usurpation of the buffer state of Afghanistan. The national daily, Statesman reports that., "The three-day assembly of Islamic clerics and tribal elders in the Afghan capital concluded Saturday with pledges of support for the Taliban and calls on the international community to recognize the country's Taliban-led government. The meeting in Kabul was tailored along the lines of Afghanistan's traditional Loya Jirgas ~ regular councils of elders, leaders and prominent figures meant to deliberate Afghan policy issues."

The national daily, The Statesman further informs us pithily that, "But the overwhelming majority of attendees were Taliban officials and supporters, mostly Islamic clerics. Women were not allowed to attend, unlike the last Loya Jirga that was held under the previous, U.S.-backed government. The former insurgents, who have kept a complete lock on decision-making since taking over the country last August, touted the gathering as a forum on issues facing Afghanistan. According to Mujib-ul Rahman Ansari, a cleric who attended the gathering, an 11-point statement released at the end urges countries in the region and the world, the United Nations, Islamic organizations and others to recognize a Taliban-led

Afghanistan, remove all sanctions imposed since the Taliban takeover and unfreeze Afghan assets abroad." Ansari said that more than 4,500 Islamic clerics and elders who attended renewed their allegiance and loyalty to the Taliban's supreme leader and spiritual chief, Haibatullah Akhundzada.

The Comity of G7 Nations

Issues of International Importance: 28 July, 2008

Since the beginning of times of the larger ecosystem of nation states, geo economics and the attendant economic cooperation have been the dominant factor in the realm of international affairs. One can contend that despite the fate of Gross National power resting upon the theme of military power mounted on the numbers of modern fighter jets, tanks and missiles in a battle ready standpoint, the trade and commerce part of the International comity of states too serves as the central premise upon which the entire hard power and military strength of a nation is based upon. The Regimes as extolled by Climatologists and Weapons experts too finds an echo when the group seven or the G-7 nations met at an international location to look into the rising threat of china, the maritime threat in the Indo Pacific and the Ukraine war.

The Group of Seven (G7) is an inter-governmental political forum consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. In addition, the European Union is a 'non-enumerated member'. Its members are the world's largest IMF advanced economies and wealthiest liberal democracies; the group is officially organized around shared values of pluralism and representative government.^[3] As of 2020, the collective group accounts for over 50 percent of global net wealth (which is \$418 trillion), 32 to 46 percent of global gross domestic product, and approximately 770 million people or 10 percent of the world's population. Members are great powers in global affairs and maintain mutually close political, economic, social, legal, environmental, military, religious, cultural, and diplomatic relations. From 2022, Germany has taken over the rotating presidency of the G7, following the presidency of the United Kingdom.

Originating from an *ad hoc* gathering of finance ministers in 1973, the G7 has since become a formal, high-profile venue for discussing and coordinating solutions to major global issues, especially in the areas of trade, security, economics, and climate change. Each member state's head of government or head of state, along with the Commission President and Council President of the European Union, meet annually at the G7 Summit; other high-ranking officials of the G7 and the EU meet throughout the year. Representatives of other states and international organizations are often invited as guests, with Russia having been a formal member (as part of the Group of Eight) from 1997 to 2014.

Indian Express reports that, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi is in Germany to attend the Group of Seven (G7) Summit at Schloss Elmau, a century-old retreat in a nature reserve in the Bavarian Alps. The Prime Minister is expected to speak in two sessions that include Environment, Energy, Climate, Food Security, Health, Gender Equality, and Democracy, the Ministry of External Affairs said earlier this week. He will also hold bilateral meetings with leaders of some of the participating countries."

Group of 7

The G7 is an informal forum of leading industrialised nations, which include Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. Representatives of the European Union are always present at the annual meeting of the heads of state and government of the G7. Germany holds the presidency of the G7 in 2022. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz has invited India, along with Argentina, Indonesia, Senegal, and South Africa to the 2022 Summit as partner countries. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, will take part virtually on June 27, the G7 presidency has announced.

Issue of International Importance, 29 June, 2022

The Ukraine War

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bombarded and attacked by the Russian forces. The question and the avowed intent of Ukraine's President Zelenesky made the Moscow invade Ukraine and led to a debilitating and destructive invasion by a much more lethal and militarily potent Russia.

Though President Zelensky was able to ward off the attacks on mainlkand Kyiv and Kharkiv but they have lost significant ground in the larger industrial Eastern base region of Donesk and Luhansk, parts of which are held and ruled the Russia backed rebels. The fall of the Azovastal steel plant along with the fall of the city of Donesk has been a situation where the Ukraine forces have had to withdraw from a few towns and villages which earmarks a partial victory of Putin in the five month old war.

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International Issue:01 July, 2022

In the pre Covid days, the Chinese economy had already shown signs of slowing down as the American tariffs reflected signs of containing the Han economy. The Pandemic came then and took its toll where-in the larger idiom of nations being impacted by the larger global slowdown became the Global order of the day. China is too known for imposing Covid restrictions on its population in a very sturdily strict manner which was

critised the world over as being too harsh debilitating for the general freedom of movement and freedom of livelihood for the people in the Chinese cities such as Beijing and Shanghai.

The Chinese rode high on the ides of liberalization and Globalization for their domestic economy in the late nineteen seventies which made them have an edge in opening up over New Delhi by about a decade and which is the core reason why the Chinese economy is at a better and higher keel than the larger context of the Indian economy. Still, now in the later section of the current year, the Chinese economy is doing better sturdily despite the American sanctions. The Cable News Network reports that, "China's huge manufacturing and service industries just saw their first month of growth since February, according to surveys published Thursday, as Covid restrictions were eased in many cities." The channel further informs us that, " But the shadow of further lockdowns still looms over the world's second biggest economy as Beijing sends mixed messages about the best way out of the Covid pandemic.The Chinese government's purchasing managers' index (PMI) for manufacturing — which mainly covers larger businesses and state-owned companies — rose to 50.2 in June, the first time it has crossed the 50 mark since February, according to the National Bureau of Statistics. A reading above 50 indicates that activity is increasing."

Meanwhile, the official non-manufacturing PMI, which includes construction and services industries, jumped to 54.7 in June, compared with 47.8 in May. It was also the first time the index has moved back into expansion territory in four months, and its strongest reading since May 2021. The surveys provide the latest signs of recovery in China's economy, as the country gradually reopens for business following months of widespread Covid lockdowns. Shanghai Disneyland reopens as China relaxes more Covid rules "The official PMIs point to a surprisingly rapid recovery in services activity this month after virus restrictions were mostly lifted," said Julian Evans-Pritchard, senior China economist for Capital Economics.

International Issues: 4 July, 2022

The Afghani New Great Game

Afghanistan has been a perennial prey to the one uppance of the historic and colonial Great Game where-in the twin large powers of the order of Russia and the Colonial and oppressive British Empire were at loggerheads with each other in order to prevent each other from the usurpation of the buffer state of Afghanistan. The national daily, Statesman reports that., "The three-day assembly of Islamic clerics and tribal elders in the Afghan capital concluded Saturday with pledges of support for the Taliban and calls on the international community to recognize the country's Taliban-led government. The meeting

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The national daily, The Statesman further informs us pithily that, "But the overwhelming majority of attendees were Taliban officials and supporters, mostly Islamic clerics. Women were not allowed to attend, unlike the last Loya Jirga that was held under the previous, U.S.-backed government. The former insurgents, who have kept a complete lock on decision-making since taking over the country last August, touted the gathering as a forum on issues facing Afghanistan. According to Mujib-ul Rahman Ansari, a cleric who attended the gathering, an 11-point statement released at the end urges countries in the region and the world, the United Nations, Islamic organizations and others to recognize a Taliban-led Afghanistan, remove all sanctions imposed since the Taliban takeover and unfreeze Afghan assets abroad." Ansari said that more than 4,500 Islamic clerics and elders who attended renewed their allegiance and loyalty to the Taliban's supreme leader and spiritual chief, Haibatullah Akhundzada.

Issue of Global significance: 5 July, 2022

The North Korean nation set amidst the yesteryears, rigmarole of the hallowed cold war days has been of the order of instigating terror and border and regional vitriol in the region. Despite the sanctions regime of United States of America and the larger West, the notion of North Korean rebelliousness against the west ordained international system

continues and persists. The American establishment in tandem with the larger construct of

the Seoul Government have declared and issued a joint Statement that the repeated

nuclear missile tests of Pyong yong pose a structural security threat to the stability and pelf

and peace of the region. In order to ameliorate the American influence, the North Korean

dictator, Kim Jong Un is part and parcel of the striving to blackmail the nations such as

South Korea, Japan and Australia through its repeated volley of missile and ICBM tests in

order to stall the American influence and reinstate his rogue nature in the larger nation.

The Human rights watch reported in 2021 that, "in 2020 remained one of the

most repressive countries in the world. Under the rule of Kim Jong Un, the third leader of

the nearly 75-year Kim dynasty, the totalitarian government deepened repression and

maintained fearful obedience using threats of execution, imprisonment, enforced

disappearance, and forced labor. Due to the border closures and travel restrictions put in

place to stop the spread of Covid-19, the country became more isolated than ever, with

authorities intensifying already tight restrictions on communication with the outside

world."

The report further went on to contend that, "The government continued to sharply

curtail all basic liberties, including freedom of expression, religion and conscience,

assembly, and association, and ban political opposition, independent media, civil society,

and trade unions. Authorities in North Korea routinely send perceived opponents of the

government to secretive prison camps where they face torture, starvation rations, and

forced labor. Fear of collective punishment is used to silence dissent. The government

systematically extracts forced, unpaid labor from its citizens to build infrastructure and

public works projects. The government also fails to protect the rights of children and

marginalized groups including women and people with disabilities."

International events: 6 July, 2022

The Pakistan's Political Ferment

It can be safely surmised that the Pakistani political firmament and circus is a buffoon's paradise. The Pakistani state is often regarded as a failed State going by the idiom of the democratic deficit and minority subjugation in the Pakistani context. The recent change of Regimental guard in Islamabad once again points to the American connect with Rawalpindi, the Pakistani army headquarters in the larger context of the Imran khan's removal from the seat of power in the political firmament of Pakistan. The years old propensity of pointing at India's invisible hand and instrumentality to hide away the fragility and the embedded failures of the Pakistani government and the attendant failures of the Pakistan's foreign policy and national failures.

The manner in which the Pakistani Premier and Pakistani cricket icon was removed from the high perch of power in Islamabad is owed to the American connect which the Army HQ have with the west and United states of America. Still, the clean chit imparted to PM Shehbaz Shareef by the Pakistani Supreme Court can be conveniently recorded as it gives a strengthened arm to the PPP vis a vis against the democratic protestation of Imran Khan. The First post news portal informs that the "Pakistani court on Tuesday granted Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and his son and Punjab Chief Minister Hamza Shehbaz a onetime exemption from personal appearances at hearings in separate corruption cases. Prime Minister Shehbaz was to appear before an accountability court in Lahore on Tuesday in the Ashiana-i-Iqbal Housing Scheme corruption case in which he is facing misuse of authority and causing a loss of millions of rupees to the exchequer. He requested the court through his counsel that he be granted an exemption as he was "preoccupied in Islamabad in connection with various official matters" and cannot appear before the court. The popular magazine, India Today reports that, "Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan on Tuesday threatened to reveal all about the "conspiracy" that allegedly led to his downfall. Khan's video message came ahead of crucial by-election in Punjab this month where his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party is trying to secure the seats against the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML- N). In his message, Khan alleged the provincial administration was involved in rigging the upcoming polls. Khan was removed through a no-trust vote in April but refused to concede his defeat, and rather alleged that an American conspiracy with the help of local actors was the cause of his

ouster. His belligerent posturing has clashed with the powerful establishment. He upped his ante in the video message, threatening to identify the characters responsible for the conspiracy to topple his government if his harassment and that of his party was not stopped. "If we are pushed against the wall and harassed then I will be forced to speak up and will lav bare everything before the nation about what happened."

International Issue: 7 July, 2022

United Nations Portals: The Population Day

Internationally, United Nations Organizations has a key binding and regulating role to play in the larger Global firmament. One can contend that UNO takes part in several other activities and concerns of worth apart from the twin objectives of peacekeeping and peacemaking which comprises of Gender empowerment activities, Human rights monitoring, Climate change mitigation along with Disarmament and many such other engagements which are Global and transnational in nature and tenor.

The United Nations portals informs us that, "The United Nations designates specific days, weeks, years and decades as occasions to mark particular events or topics in order to promote, through awareness and action, the objectives of the Organization. Usually, it is one or more Member States that propose these observances and the General Assembly establishes them with a resolution. On occasion, these celebrations are declared by the specialized agencies of the United Nations, such as UNESCO, UNICEF, FAO, etc., when they concern issues that fall within the scope of their competencies. Some of them may be later adopted by the General Assembly." As an instance world population day is falling on the 11 th of July, 2022 where-in the concerns of population explosion are foremost. Nation today informs us that, "Five Billion Day, in 1987, was meant to acknowledge the date on which the world's population reached an estimated five billion people, which supposedly happened on July 11 of that year (hence the annual date for World Population Day). And look how much the population has increased since then! Population issues cover a lot of territories, from family planning, gender equality, and environmental impacts to human rights concerns." The same portal further contends that,

"World Population Day was established in 1989 by the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme — UNDP. The inspiration for this holiday was the peaking public interest in the celebration of 'Five Billion Day' on July 11, 1987. This original date was decided to be set as 'World Population Day' by the United Nations General Assembly, and resolution 45/216 made this official in December 1990." The key concern is to analyse and find out solutions about the menace of overpopulation and the attendant impact of development and mother nature and other natural processes of evolution and climate sustainability.

International Issue: 8 July, 2022

Boris Johnson and the British Political Circus

There was a time in the halcyon days where in the Colonial powers which were Euro centric in origin, ruled the roost. Taking up the theme of United Kingdom, the nation was earlier in news concerning the manner in which London navigated through the course of its much famed and talked about Brexit plan and referendum which also cast a shadow on a few of the British leader's political fortunes. Boris Johnson, the Prime Minister of Britain has been indicted in the past for holding preposterous parties flouting all Covid norms for which the protests occurred in the nation concerning its strict and martinet type nature. Now, his political opponents are baying for his blood both within the conservatives and the labour's opponents.

The Guardian can be quoted concerning the speech of PM Boris Johnson in the heady portals of Westminsiter where in the paper informs us about the national and public concern which Boris Johnson displayed for the search of a new leader in the West Minister. The Guardian contends that, "'ve agreed with Sir Graham Brady, the chairman of our backbench MPs, that the process of choosing that new leader should begin now. The timetable will be announced next week and I've today appointed a cabinet to serve, as I will, until a new leader is in place."

Boris Johnson further went on to contend that, " want to say to the millions of people who voted for us in 2019, many of them voting Conservative for the first time, thank you for that incredible mandate, the biggest Conservative majority since 1987, the biggest share of the vote since 1979. And the reason I have fought so hard in the last few days to continue, to deliver that mandate in person, was not just because I wanted to do so but because I felt it was my job, my duty, my obligation to you, to continue to do what we promised in 2019." Still, it can be stressed and reiterated that in a first up political first in United Kingdom, PM Bris Johnson was facing the oral allegations of his own mates from the Torries as the political colleagues were narrating to him the reasons why he fell foul of his own party representatives. President Trump in united States too lost out to candidadte Joe Biden due to his whimsical style and alleged mismanagement of the Covid Pandemic and now PM Bris Johnson in Britain follows suit.

International Developments: 11 July, 2022

The geo-economic Tragedy of Sri Lanka

The developments in the neighbourhood state of Sri Lanka are there for the history Books as a kind of revolution has occurred in the nation in the shady and discomfiting aftermath of the economic spiral and economic mismanagement by the dynastic rule of the Mahinda Rajpaksa Government of the day and now with the surrendered tendered resignation of Ranil Wickramsinghe, the cat is amongst the crowd and the complete lid of popular opprobrium has been blown off by the people and hoi polloi of the besieged and troubled Emerald Isle that Sri Lanka used to be not so many years back with its appreciable lead over the rest of its South Asian counterparts in the Indian subcontinent. The threat of an economic collapse has always been imminent in the contours of Colombo but the Government of the day replete with Dynastic rule and amidst the frenzy of collaboration with the Chinese deb trap diplomacy, the threat of an economic collapse were always there on the anvil for the nation state of Sri Lanka which had an otherwise efficiency and professionalism veneer attached to itself and its attendant workings.

A sort of a walkover populist revolution seems to have occurred in the Emerald isle of Sri Lanka as in the people and the protesters are most venerably peaceful lot one will be ever accosted by. The national daily, the Hindu reports that, "Calm returns to Colombo, people make their way to the presidential palace in 'regulated' long queues; Presidential Secretariat resembles a public park. Sunday was nothing like Saturday near Colombo's seafront. It was much less crowded, but still teeming with people. They were curiously surveying the Presidential Secretariat and official residence, a day after outraged demonstrators captured and occupied the iconic colonial-era structures, in a stunning finale to a season of protests in crisis-hit Sri Lanka."

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